

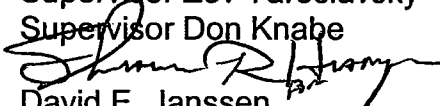


County of Los Angeles
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

713 KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION • LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012
(213) 974-1101
<http://cao.co.la.ca.us>

DAVID E. JANSSEN
Chief Administrative Officer

August 18, 2006

To: Mayor Michael D. Antonovich
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe

From: David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

Board of Supervisors
GLORIA MOLINA
First District

YVONNE B. BURKE
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District

DON KNABE
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MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

MOTION TO SUPPORT AB 450 (YEE), INCORPORATION OF THE CALIFORNIA ANIMAL RESPONSE SYSTEM INTO THE STANDARDIZED EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM AND H.R. 3858 (LANTOS), THE PETS EVACUATION AND TRANSPORTATION STANDARDS ACT, (ITEM NO. 11, AGENDA OF AUGUST 22, 2006)

Item No. 11 on the August 22, 2006 agenda is a motion by Supervisor Yaroslavsky recommending that the Board of Supervisors: 1) support AB 450 and communicate this position to the author and our Legislative Delegation in Sacramento and instruct our Sacramento advocates to pursue this legislation, and 2) support H.R. 3858 and communicate this position to the author and the County's Congressional Delegation and instruct our Washington advocates to pursue passage of this legislation. **Support for these measures is a matter for Board policy determination.**

As amended on April 25, 2006, **AB 450 (Yee)** would require the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) to incorporate the California Animal Response Emergency System (CARES) program into the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS).

The CARES system is a plan intended to organize and coordinate State agencies' response to assist local governments and volunteer organizations to address the needs of animals during natural disasters. In June 2001, the CARES plan was developed, but it has not been incorporated into the State's SEMS, which is California's overall operational structure for State and local emergency response. The bill's author indicates that among the lessons learned from Hurricane Katrina is that there must be a

plan for the evacuation of pets; otherwise, animal owners refuse to leave dangerous areas. Further, animal carcasses become a health liability when there are no plans for their disposal.

At the Federal level, the Senate recently passed an amended version of **H.R. 3858 (Lantos)**, the Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards (PETS) Act, which would require the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to ensure that State and local emergency preparedness plans include procedures for evacuating pets and service animals such as seeing-eye dogs, following a major disaster or emergency. In addition, the Senate-amended version would allow FEMA to fund the procurement, construction, leasing, or renovation of emergency shelter facilities and materials that will accommodate people with pets and service animals.

The County Department of Animal Care and Control indicates that it is well equipped and staffed to rescue and house animals evacuated from disaster areas and routinely responds during fires, floods, earthquakes or any other natural disasters to remove and temporarily house hundreds of animals. Nevertheless, this bill is needed so that human response systems are coordinated with animal care and protection programs. Therefore, the department would be in support of AB 450 and HR 3858.

The County's Office of Emergency Management is in support of AB 450 and H.R. 3858 because including CARES as part of SEMS at the State level and the implementation of the PETS Act at the Federal level, may provide the impetus to develop Statewide procedures to facilitate rapid access to State and regional mutual aid assistance during widespread emergencies. Further, implementation of CARES would involve developing a multi-agency, multi-jurisdictional group with representation from designated County departments, cities, volunteer agencies and private industry as well as the State to develop an addendum to the County emergency plan.

The Department of Public Health (DPH) indicates that it supports AB 450 and H.R. 3858 because these measures would assist during disasters when some citizens may refuse to evacuate because they could not take their pets to shelters. DPH indicates that some animal control facilities do not have sufficient staff or cage space to deal with animals evacuated from disaster areas, nor are there systems in place to help evacuate pets and livestock when there is a large-scale disaster. Because of the lack of adequate preparedness on this issue, the National Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has added requirements to have policies and procedures to deal with large scale care of animals, in addition to humans, for those entities receiving grant funds. DPH indicates that requiring OES to incorporate the CARES program into SEMS is a step in the right direction. Additionally, the PETS Act would add Federal involvement in disaster planning aid for local governments.

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The Department of Public Social Services indicates that along with the Red Cross, it makes every reasonable attempt to locate human shelters in proximity to animal shelters and/or locations that can accommodate animals. The Department welcomes additional resources and therefore is in support of AB 450 and H.R. 3858 to help local government with animals during a disaster.

Because there is no existing Board policy to support the incorporation of the California Animal Response Emergency System program into the Standardized Emergency Management System and Federal requirements for the inclusion of evacuating pets during emergencies, support for these measures is a matter for Board policy determination.

AB 450 is supported by the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, the California Animal Control Directors Association, the California Cattlemen's Association, the California Farm Bureau Federation, the California Veterinary Medical Association, the City and County of San Francisco and the Humane Society of the United States. There is no registered opposition on file. AB 450 passed the Senate Appropriations Committee on August 17, 2006, by a vote of 13 to 0, and now proceeds to the Senate Floor. H.R. 3858 passed the U.S. Senate on August 3, 2006 and awaits Conference action.

DEJ:GK:
MAL:JF:RM:hg

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Department of Animal Care and Control
Department of Health Services
Department of Public Social Services
Office of Emergency Management